

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AGRE-00 USIA-15 AID-05 EB-08 AF-10 ARA-10

EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 COME-00 ISO-00 TRSE-00 ABF-01

OMB-01 /095 W

-----281238Z 026480 /53

R 280917Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4232

UNCLAS ROME 6825

FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO EAGR

SUBJ: FAO AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE'S CONSIDERATION OF POST-  
HARVEST LOSSES

REF: ROME 6561

1. THE FAO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE (COAG) HEARD OVER 40 SPEAKERS  
SUPPORT THE FAO GIVING PRIORITY TO THE REDUCTION OF POST-  
HARVEST LOSSES. THERE WERE NO DISSENS FROM THIS VIEW, THOUGH MANY  
COUNTRIES HAD COMMENTS ON FAO'S PROPOSALS. MOST COUNTRIES  
ALSO EXPRESSED THE NEED FOR THE COORDINATION OF EFFORTS IN  
THIS FIELD AND BELIEVED FAO SHOULD FILL THIS NEED.

2. THE FAO POST-HARVEST LOSS PROGRAM (SEE COAG/77/6 AND  
SUPP.1) CALLS FOR A UNIT TO BE SET UP TO WORK ON THIS ISSUE,  
ESPECIALLY TO COORDINATE THE MANY BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL  
EFFORTS TO REDUCE POST-HARVEST LOSSES. THE FAO ACTION PROGRAM  
ALSO CALLED FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF 10 MODEL PILOT PROJECTS TO  
ASSIST IN REDUCING THROUGH PRACTICAL EFFORTS AND TRAINING POST  
HARVEST LOSSES IN REPRESENTATIVE SITUATIONS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES  
OF THE WORLD. THESE PILOT PROJECTS WOULD COST ABOUT DLR 25  
MILLION AND THE FAO SECRETARIAT KEPT REFERRING TO THE DECISION  
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OF THE 70TH FAO COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE FAO DIRECTOR GENERAL  
TO PREPARE A SPECIFIC PROPOSAL FOR A DLR 20 MILLION FUND TO FINANCE  
A PROGRAM AGAINST POST-HARVEST LOSSES, THOUGH THE COUNCIL REPORT  
CL/70/REP PARA 20 IS NOT SO SPECIFIC HOWEVER, THE FAO SECRETARIAT  
CAREFULLY STEERED COAG AWAY FROM DISCUSSING THE FINANCING OF THEIR  
ACTION PROGRAM, CONSIDERING IT A SUBJECT FOR THE FAO FINANCE  
COMMITTEE.

3. COMMENTS ON THIS PROGRAM WERE GENERALLY FAVORABLE, BUT MANY DELEGATES STRESSED THE MAGNITUDE OF THE PROBLEM, THE COMPLEXITIES OF SOLUTIONS AND DIFFERENCES IN THE PROBLEM BETWEEN COUNTRIES. THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES EMPHASIZED WHAT THEY OR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ARE DOING IN THE FIELD. THEY ARGUED THAT UNTIL THERE IS A FULL UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT IS BEING DONE, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DECIDE ON ANY COMPLETE FAO PROGRAM OR THE FAO PROGRAM. A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES QUESTIONED THE NEED FOR A GENERAL TRUST FUND UNTIL THE ABOVE ASSESSMENT IS MADE. THE U.S. STATEMENT WILL BE ATTACHED TO THE DELEGATION REPORT. OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WANTED TO SEE FAO ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD IN THE REGULAR PROGRAM.

4. DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WANTED TO KNOW THE LOCUS FOR THE PILOT PROJECTS AND EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR CLOSE INTEGRATION OF FOOD PRODUCTION EFFORTS AND FOOD DISTRIBUTION AND SECURITY EFFORTS AND FOOD DISTRIBUTION AND SECURITY PROGRAMS ESPECIALLY AT THE FARM AND VILLAGE LEVEL. A FEW DEVELOPING COUNTRIES STRESSED THE NEED FOR A GENERAL TRUST FUND, BUT GENERALLY DELEGATES STAYED AWAY FROM THE FUNDING ISSUE. ONLY ONE COUNTRY MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY OF USING THE SURPLUS FUNDS IN THE FAO SUSPENSE ACCOUNT TO FUND THE POST-HARVEST LOSS PROGRAM. GARDNER

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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